



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,879	11/16/2001	Yoshifumi Iwata	216153US3	7622

22850 7590 07/30/2002

OBLON SPIVAK MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT PC
FOURTH FLOOR
1755 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

MCCAMEY, ANN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2833	

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/987,879	IWATA, YOSHIFUMI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ann M McCamey	2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 06 November 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 4, "receives" should be –receive--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kubo (JP 4-58033).

Regarding claim 1, Kubo discloses a mounting structure comprising:
a protruding member 4 provided to a box body of the electrical connection box,
the protruding member being arranged to receive the a part of a collision (a side
collision) before the box body does; and

at least one mounting member 7 extended from the box body and fixed to a part
of the vehicle at a front end thereof; wherein,

a portion of force of the impact received by the protruding member acts on the
mounting member in a direction that intersects with the longitudinal direction of the
mounting member.

Regarding claim 2, Kubo discloses a mounting structure comprising:

a protruding member 4 provided to a box body of the electrical connection box, the protruding member being arranged to receive the a part of a collision before the box body does; and

at least one mounting member 7 extended from the box body and fixed to a part of the vehicle at a front end thereof; wherein:

the electrical connection box is fixed to a cowl side panel through the mounting member extended form the box body; and

a portion of force of the impact received by the protruding member acts on the mounting member in a direction that intersects with the longitudinal direction of the mounting member.

Regarding claim 3, Kubo discloses a mounting structure comprising

at least two mounting members 7 extended form the box body, each mounting member being fixed to a part of the vehicle at a front end thereof, each mounting member being formed to have high geometrical rigidity in a longitudinal direction; wherein

a portion of the impact received by the electrical connection box acts on each mounting member in a direction the intersects with the longitudinal direction of the mounting member.

Regarding claim 4, Kubo discloses the line of action of impact received by the box body extends off the center of rotation of the box body.

Regarding claim 5, Kubo discloses the protruding member being provided with at least one reinforcing rib extending along the direction in which the impact is transmitted.

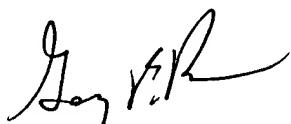
Regarding claim 6, Kubo discloses at least a portion of the mounting member extending in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the impact is transmitted upon collision of the vehicle.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ann M McCamey whose telephone number is (703) 305-3422. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Gary Paumen
Primary Examiner

AMM
July 16, 2002